

24 February 1982

US Imports of Crude Oil from Libya:
(thousand b/d)

September 1973 (pre-crisis level)	153
1975	223
1976	444
1977	704
1978	638
1979	642
1980	546
1981--1st quarter	482
April	488
May	437
June-August	no data
September	154
October	136
November	134
December	122
1982--January } February }	100 or less (estimated)

Libyan crude oil exports to the U.S. have steadily decreased since 1977, as total U.S. imports have fallen. Current levels of Libyan imports probably have fallen under 100,000 b/d (less than 5 percent of total U.S. imports) because of the continuing fall in demand. The U.S. can easily replace Libyan crude imports with similar quality crude from Nigeria, Algeria, or the North Sea. Sales from these countries are currently depressed because of the soft oil market. Libya, on the other hand, could increase sales in Western and Eastern Europe by discounting the price of its crude or by selling oil products, whose origin is difficult to identify.

It would not be feasible for the U.S. Government to attempt to require those companies that lift crude from Libya to make their purchases in a specific alternative country, such as Oman. In fact, Omani crude is not of the quality of Libyan crude and cannot replace Libyan supplies to those refineries that currently process Libyan crude.

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

MEMORANDUM FOR: *WJC*

*Additional materials from
Charlie Waterman for NSC on Libya:*

- Threat to US Sixth Fleet*
- US imports of Libyan crude
oil & alternative suppliers.*

*File
NSC-25 Feb
Libya*



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